Roxbury, Feb. 20, 1879.

My dear Fanny:

Yours of yesterday is at hand. Harold will be lucky if he escapes with no serious injury to his eye. Considering the many risks that children occur in seeking amusement in sliding, skating, &c., it is something wonderful that half of their number are not permanently disfigured in some way.

Ever since Saturday I have been confined to the house by the worst cold I have had since the death of your mother. The catarrh in my head has made great confusion of the brain, and been offensively annoying; and my throat has been so sore and inflamed as to make any attempt to swallow even liquids very painful. It has seemed as though it might be a case of incipient diphtheria, but I am somewhat relieved to-day. My other chronic ailments have also been very troublesome, which, with

nightly loss of sleep, have made me "good for nothing" indeed. All these are the natural indications, at my period of life, that the "outward man", being less and less capable of resisting exposure and disease, is steadily tending toward that dissolution which in every such case is wisely decreed.

Sick and miserable as I was on Saturday, I was so morally incensed at Senator Blaine's demagogical speech in the U.S. Senate, in favor of excluding Chinese immigration to these shores, and indecently discarding the Burlingame treaty, that I was nerved to write the letter which appeared in the Tribune, and which has already been very widely approved. An abstract of it will appear in very many of the newspapers, and so its purport will become known to a great number of readers in various sections of the country. Of course, I am prepared to receive some hot denunciations from California, as I used to from the South for my anti-slavery articles. As

far as I can learn, the press, here at the North, without distinction of party, is strong in its rebuke of the action of the Senate. The Boston Journal says that all the Republican newspapers on its exchange list are united in condemning it. It is particularly noteworthy, too, that the Legislature of Connecticut has unanimously expressed its reprobation of the disgraceful proceeding. I wish I could believe (though I do hope) that Pres. Hayes will interpose his veto; but what he will do remains to be seen.

I see that Mephistopheles Jay Gould is reported to have made millions, the other day, by his adroit financiering and the sale of the greater portion of his Union Pacific stock. The Boston Traveller, in estimating the dividends he has already received, the advanced amount he has received on the shares he sold, and the value of the shares he still retains, places the aggregate at the enormous amount of eighteen millions of dollars!

Annie Hallowell passed last night at Linwood Street. Agnes has been at Medford for several days, improving in health, and will remain a few days longer.

We have had a curious snow-storm for two days past, without intermission, and yet not more than a foot has fallen on the average, the flakes have come down so delicately. From our windows the view is exceedingly beautiful, the snow being of the purest white and the trees festooned in the most artistic manner. We shall probably have sleighing into March. The temperature has been remarkably uniform throughout - about 10 deg. below the freezing point.

I am glad you are enjoying your social visits.

Mr. Frothingham's withdrawal from his pastoral office will probably be the dissolution of his congregation. Religious freedom of thought and speech finds little encouragement in commercial Babylon.

Your loving Father.